Recovery of Dues from Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Ltd.

1608. **SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Doordarshan has to realise any dues on account of programmes telecast by the Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Ltd;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to realise the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of outstanding dues against M/s. ABCL payable to Delhi Doordarshan Kendra are as under:

Principal amount: Rs. 17.65 crores

(c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that proceedings against the agency initiated by them for recovery of dues has been stayed by Mumbai High Court as the agency has been declared a sick unit and referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR has directed Industrial Development Bank of India, the operating agency, that while finalising rehabilitation package of the company, the interest of Doordarshan may be kept in mind.

Failure of Doordarshan to launch its Channel in North America

1609. **SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan failed to launch its channel in North America as scheduled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the losses to Doordarshan on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF